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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)**

JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR
OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE METEOROLOGY
(JCOMM)

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EXPERT TEAM ON SEA ICE – FOURTH SESSION

STEERING GROUP FOR THE PROJECT GLOBAL DIGITAL
SEA ICE DATA BANK (GDSIDB) – TWELTH SESSION

ITEM 2.5.6

ST PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN FEDERATION
1 TO 5 MARCH 2010

Original: ENGLISH

Progress Report from the Coordinator of METAREA XIX

(Submitted by Helge Tangen, Norwegian Meteorological Institute (met.no))

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document contains a report on the status of preparations for issuing marine
safety information for METAREA XIX.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI) is invited to:

- (a) Note and comment on the information in this document;
- (b) Discuss the coordination of preparations for issuing sea ice and iceberg information among all of the Arctic METAREAs;
- (c) Discuss and recommend means to resolve the issues identified in Paragraph 9;
- (d) Recommend further steps toward ensuring the optimum delivery of sea ice and iceberg Information for the Arctic METAREAs.

DISCUSSION

1. In 2007, Norway accepted official recognition as the Issuing Service for marine weather forecasts and warnings for METAREA XIX as part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). Norwegian Coastal Administration (NAC) is the Issuing (and preparation) Service for Associated NAVAREA XIX
2. Canada is recognized as the Issuing Service for METAREAs XVII and XVIII and Russia for METAREAs XX and XXI.
3. It should be noted that Arctic METAREAs are dynamic – a decreasing ice cover will lead to increasing demand for weather and ice information, both temporally and spatially.

Norway's approach will be to start with weather information for ice free areas and information on the ice edge.

4. The broadcast of METAREA information beyond 76N will be through Telenor Maritime Radio, responsible for Norwegian Coastal Radio. An agreement between Telenor Maritime Radio, NAC and met.no is signed. Transmission via HF-NBDP (Narrow Band Direct Printing) is tested and will be the broadcasting system N of N76. A Certificate of Authorization to participate as an Information Provider in the International SafetyNET Service has been issued to met.no from IMO.

5. NAC and met.no are both preparing for testing periods. Today's HF NBDP will not cover properly the northernmost areas (N of approx. 81N). The agreement mentioned in Paragraph 4 includes enhancement of broadcast system, and will be ready by Oct 1, 2010.

6. NAVAREA, METAREA, and NAVTEX coverage diagrams, including service areas and times of transmission are being developed as products and transmission times are negotiated.

7. Discussions with Canada and Russia, for coordination and consistency across METAREA boundaries, is being planned...possibly at a GMDSS meeting in Melbourne in late April however it is hoped that some planning will take place prior to this.

8. Sea ice information will consist of NAVTEX bulletins describing the ice edge. An overlap of 300 NM is planned between adjacent METAREAs, except between METAREAS XVIII and XIX; because this area is not navigable.

9. Issues that must be resolved include:

- Broadcast times- need to be clarified and staggered so each Issuing Service can properly follow the previous.
 - Definition of ice edge- recommended that the METNAV bulletins use 10% ice concentration as the ice edge with a disclaimer that there may be trace ice and bergs outside the ice edge
 - Ice edge reconciliation— there must be continuity of the ice edge from one METAREA to the adjacent METAREAs. An ftp site (or some similar solution) could be used for Issuing Services to place their ice information in advance of the broadcast allowing the next Issuing Service to integrate into their material as soon as possible.
 - Disclaimer- Concern was expressed that the more detailed local ice information may be missed or ignored in favour of the METNAV bulletin. It is proposed that all the METNAV area bulletins take a common approach to providing a Disclaimer such as "For detailed local ice information go to...."
 - Training— It is recommended that the 3 Issuing Services meet together for joint training / back-up plan discussion. The UK MET office is proposed as a most suitable venue.
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